



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: October 14, 2010

Agenda Item No. 8: Status Report on the City of Lake Elsinore Lead Agency Program Pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

INTRODUCTION: Following receipt of a public complaint pertaining to certain surface mining operations located within the jurisdiction of the City of Lake Elsinore (City) in November 2009, the SMGB has been receiving updates from the Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) as to the nature of the operations, and whether issues and violations noted are being adequately addressed.

BACKGROUND: Five surface mining operations are situated within the jurisdiction of the City. These mine sites which share common boundaries are:

- Pacific Clay Pits (CA Mine ID #91-33-0006)
- Mountain Avenue Pit #2 (CA Mine ID #91-33-0020)
- Brighton Alberhill Clay Mine (CA Mine ID #91-33-0022)
- Murdock Alberhill Ranch (CA Mine ID #91-33-0073)
- Nichols Canyon Mine (CA Mine ID #91-33-0098)

In November 2009, the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) received a public complaint pertaining to certain surface mining operations located within the jurisdiction of the City of Lake Elsinore (City). Such complaints were forwarded to the Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR). OMR performed a site visit in March 2010, and presented a summary of its site visit at the SMGB's July 10, 2010, regular business meeting. At such meeting, the SMGB expressed concern based on information provided by OMR, and requested that OMR provide more in-depth information, including the inspection reports that the city had been filing during the time houses were being built within the boundaries of the mining footprint, and photographs taken during inspections and site visits performed by OMR, and OMR's commentary on such reports. Additional information was provided by OMR at the SMGB's September 9, 2010, regular business meeting. In addition, the City requested in correspondence dated August 6, 2010, that additional time would be needed to present a comprehensive report to OMR. A chronology of pertinent events and activities is summarized in Table 1.



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Table 1	
Chronology	
Date	Action/Activity
November 2009	Initial public complaint received ^(a)
March 10, 2010	Site visit performed by OMR
July 10, 2010	Report presented by OMR to SMGB
September 6, 2010	15-Day Notice issued by OMR to City (Exhibit B)
September 9, 2010	Additional information provided by OMR dated June 28, 2010 (Exhibit A)
October 1, 2010	Additional information provided by City dated October 1, 2010 (Exhibit A)

(a) Complaints and comments provided by same party have been persistent since originally received in November 2009.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: The status report being provided by OMR and the City is for the SMGB's information. No recommendations are provided at this time.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer



EXHIBITS

- A Information provided by the City of Lake Elsinore and received on October 1, 2010.**
- B OMR 15-Day Notice to the City of Lake Elsinore dated September 20, 2010.**
- C Information provided by OMR dated June 28, 2010.**

